Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In one preferable embodiment of the separator of the invention, the breaking guide includes a recess continuously formed around periphery of the separator or multiple recesses intermittently arranged around periphery of the separator. In this embodiment of the separator of the invention, when the breaking guide includes the multiple recesses formed intermittently, the multiple recesses may have a polygonal opening which has at least one vertex angle of less than 90 degrees. In this embodiment, ~~he recess~~the recess may have any of a wedge-like cross section, a quasi-V-shaped cross section, a quasi-U-shaped cross section, and a quasi-circular cross section in depth of the separator. The recess may be also used as a coolant conduit used for cooling down a fuel cell in which the separator is included.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the structure of the first embodiment discussed above, the recess 11 is formed only on the separator 6. The recess may otherwise be formed only ~~one~~ on the separator 7 or on both the separators 6 and 7.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the structure of the first embodiment discussed above, the disassembly procedure places the edge of the cracking tool 12 on the bottom of the recess 11 and applies an external force onto the bottom of the recess 11 to make a crack on the separator 6 for breakage. Another technique may be adopted for breakage of the separator 6. In the structure of another

modified example shown in Fig. 8, the separators 6 and 7 are broken by tearing recesses 17 and 18 formed in the separators 6 and 7. The recesses 17 and 18 are formed on the other planes of the separators 6 and 7 opposite to the planes facing the MEA 2 to have quasi-U-shaped cross sections around the peripheries of the respective separators 6 and 7. The recesses 17 and 18 may be formed continuously or intermittently. The disassembly procedure of the fuel cell first places two cracking tools 19, 19 at positions facing the separators 6 and 7, as shown in Fig. 8(a). A wedge 19a of one cracking tool 19 is positioned to face the recess 17 formed on the separator 6, whereas a wedge 19a of the other cracking tool 19 is positioned to face the recess 18 formed on the separator 7. Each of the wedges 19a is tapered to have a varying diameter from the greater-diameter base to the smaller-diameter free end than the diameter of the recesses 17 and 18. As shown in Fig. 8(b), the cracking tools 19, 19 are pressed against the top face and the bottom face of the fuel cell. The free ends of the wedges 19a are inserted into the openings of the recesses 17 and 18, and the greater-diameter portions of the wedges 19a than the diameter of the recesses 17 and 18 enter the recesses 17 and 18 to apply an external force in an expanding direction to the recesses 17 and 18. The bottoms of the recesses 17 and 18 formed in the separators 6 and 7 are cracked and torn, so that the separators 6 and 7 are broken. The cracks are made at the positions outside the electrodes 4 and 5 but inside the sealing members 8. This structure exerts the substantially similar functions and effects to those of the first embodiment discussed above. The recess may be formed only on either one of the ~~separators 6 and 7~~separator 6 and the separator 7 and may have a cross section other than the quasi-U-shaped cross section (for example, a quasi-V-shaped cross section or a quasi-semicircular cross section). A cracking tool 190 having wedges 19a formed on both faces thereof may be located between a pair of adjoining fuel cells to disassemble the multiple fuel cells simultaneously, as shown in Fig. 9.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The breaking guides 21 and 22 have recesses 21a and 22a formed on the other planes of the separators 6 and 7 opposite to the planes facing the MEA 2 to be continuous around the peripheries of the respective separators 6 and 7. The recesses 21a and 22a are filled with filling members 21b and 22b of a higher hardness material. The recesses 21a and ~~22b~~ 22a are formed to have wedge-like cross sections, more specifically, quasi-V-shaped cross sections, in depth of the separators 6 and 7. The higher hardness material has a higher hardness than that of the separators 6 and 7, which are made of gas-impermeable molded carbon obtained by compression of carbon, and is, for example, a metal or artificial graphite fired at high temperature (for example, temperature of not less than 2500°C). The filling members 21b and 22b of the higher hardness material have electrical conductivity equivalent to or higher than that of the separators 6 and 7. The recesses 21a and ~~22b~~ 22a are filled with the filling members 21b and 22b of the higher hardness material to make the surfaces of the respective separators 6 and 7 substantially flat and even. The recesses 21a and 22a formed in the separators 6 and 7 may subsequently be filled with the filling members 21b and 22b of the higher hardness material. Otherwise specific portions of the separators 6 and 7 corresponding to the breaking guides 21 and 22 may be physically or chemically processed or treated (for example, heat treatment or chemical treatment) to be modified and have a higher hardness.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 39, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the structure of the second embodiment discussed above, the breaking guides 21 and 22 have the filling members 21b and 22b of the higher hardness material having the higher hardness than that of the separators 6 and 7. The breaking guides may, however, be

made of a lower hardness material having a lower hardness than that of the separators 6 and 7. In the structure of another modified example shown in Fig. 13, breaking guides 25 and 26 have recesses 25a and 26a of quasi-V-shaped (wedge-like) cross sections, which are filled with filling members 25b and 26b of a different material from that of the separators 6 and 7, like the second embodiment. The filling members 25b and 26b are composed of a material having a lower hardness ~~than but~~and an equivalent electrical conductivity to ~~those of the~~ separators 6 and 7, for example, a conductive plastic. The disassembly procedure of the fuel cell of this modified structure first provides two dumbbell-like cracking tools 27 having pressing members 28 of quasi-V-shaped cross sections, like the shape of the breaking guides 25 and 26, and places the two dumbbell-like cracking tools 27, 27 to face the separators 6 and 7, as shown in Fig. 13(a). Each of the cracking tools 27 is made of a material having a higher hardness than that of the breaking guides 25 and 26. The procedure then shifts the two cracking tools 27, 27 to approach to each other and causes the pressing members 28, 28 of the cracking tools 27, 27 to apply force to the corresponding breaking guides 25 and 26, as shown in Fig. 13(b). The V-shaped edges of the pressing members 28 run through and destroy the breaking guides 25 and 26 and go into the depths of the separators 6 and 7. The downward and upward shifts of the cracking tools 27, 27 stop when the ends of the opposed pressing members 28, 28 come into contact with each other. The separators 6 and 7 are accordingly broken at the positions of the breaking guides 25 and 26, and the electrolyte membrane 3 of the MEA 2 is simultaneously broken. The procedure then removes the broken separators 6 and 7 to expose the part of the MEA 2 with the anode 4 and the cathode 5 for disassembly, as shown in Fig. 13(c). This modified structure exerts the substantially similar functions and effects to those of the second embodiment discussed above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 47, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The breaking guide 41 includes an inclined face 41a formed on the separator 6 to gradually expand the gap between the pair of separators 6 and 7 from the outer end position of the sealing members 8 toward the end of the separator 6, and a horizontal face 41b formed on the separator 7 to be opposed to the inclined face 41a. An angle of inclination θ of the inclined face 41a of the breaking guide 41 is set to be not less than an angle of gradient α of a sloped edge of a cracking tool 43 ~~(see Fig. 18)~~. The inclined face 41a in combination with the horizontal face 41b makes a space for receiving the sloped edge of the cracking tool 43 inserted into the gap between the separators 6 and 7. The horizontal face 41b also has a function of guiding a horizontal plane of the sloped edge of the cracking tool 43, which is opposite to the oblique plane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 51, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the structure of the fourth embodiment discussed above, the breaking guide 41 includes the inclined face 41a of the separator 6 and the horizontal face 41b of the separator 7. In the structure of another modified example shown in Fig. 20, the horizontal face 41b of the separator 7 may be replaced by an inclined face 41c of the separator 7, which is vertically symmetrical to the inclined face 41a of the separator 6. Namely the breaking guide 41 of this modified structure has the pair of inclined faces ~~41c, 41c.~~41a, 41c. This modified structure does not allow the cracking tool 43 to be guided by the horizontal face 41b of the separator 7, but otherwise exerts the substantially similar functions and effects to those of the fourth embodiment described above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 54, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The method of the fifth embodiment utilizes the pair of pressure rollers 52 having the built-in heaters 58. The pressure rollers 52 may, however, not have the ~~built-in rollers~~built-in heaters 58. In this modified structure, the method may use separate heaters to soften or melt the sealing members 8 with application of heat, while actuating the pressure rollers 52, 52 to apply pressure to the separators 6 and 7 and give warpage of the separators 6 and 7 in the directions away from each other. The method may otherwise cause warpage of the separators 6 and 7 with only application of pressure, while not heating the sealing members 8.

Please replace the Abstract with the attached substitute Abstract.